

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-08 DHA-02 DODE-00 INT-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 HEW-06 OES-06 OPR-02

SCSE-00 SCA-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /123 W

-----111301Z 124179 /53

O 111220Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2108

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 1771

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, EAID, RO

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE: REQUEST FOR FURTHER USGS ANALYSIS

REF: STATE 051951

1. TO ASSIST AMBASSADOR TO REACH DECISION CONCERNING WISDOM OF EVACUATING REMAINING DEPENDENTS AND NON-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL WE NEED QUICKLY, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE DURING COURSE OF THIS DAY, USGS OR OTHER SEISMIC EXPERTS' BEST ANALYSIS CONCERNING: (1) STATISTICAL PROBABILITIES, FOR WHATEVER THEY MAY BE WORTH, OF ANOTHER MAJOR QUAKE IN THIS SEISMIC ZONE, AND (2) ESTIMATES OF INTENSITY OF SUCH QUAKE. WE TRUST THAT THIS ANALYSIS WILL GO BEYOND CITATION OF REFERENCE WORK AND WILL INCLUDE CURRENT EVALUATIONS OF OTHER MAJOR SEISMOLOGICAL CENTERS (UPPSALA, EDINBURGH, ET AL), DATA ON EXPERIENCE IN OTHER AREAS OF WORLD SUBJECT TO DEEP EARTHQUAKES, AND SUMMARY OF RICHTER'S WORK ON ROMANIA (SEE BELOW).

2. IN PRODUCING THIS ESTIMATE WE REQUEST THAT USGS CONSIDER AND COMMENT ON ROMANIAN EXPERTS' EVALUATION, REPORTED IN YESTERDAY'S PRESS, WHICH DISCOUNTS PROBABILITY OF SECOND QUAKE. MAIN ELEMENTS OF ROMANIAN THESIS ARE:

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A. QUAKE IN 1912 OCCURRED IN FOCSANI EARTHQUAKE ZONE, WHICH HAS DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS FROM THAT OF VRANCEA ZONE, THEREBY ELIMINATING 1912 QUAKE AS PRECEDENT.

B. QUAKE OF 1940 CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS APRI

BECAUSE OF TIME INTERVAL BETWEEN THEM AND  
BECAUSE LAST SHOCK WAS MAIN ONE. WHERE THESE  
TWO QUAKE CONSIDERED A PAIR, THIS WOULD SUGGEST  
POSSIBILITY OF QUAKE FOLLOWING MARCH 4 SHOCK OF  
INTENSITY GREATER THAN 8.0, WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE  
IN ATLANTIC ZONE.

C. PAIR OF EARTHQUAKES IN 1945, ALTHOUGH IN VRANCEA  
ZONE, OCCURRED AT LESSER DEPTH AND HAD FEW EFFECTS.

D. RICHTER'S ANALYSIS OF VRANCEA ZONE PURPORTEDLY  
SHOWS THAT MAJOR SHOCK IS FOLLOWED BY SERIES  
OF SHOCKS OF DIMINISHING INTENSITY WHICH EXHAUSTS  
LAST REMNANTS OF ACCUMULATED ENERGY. (FYI:  
ROMANIAN SEISMOLOGISTS TOLD EMBOFF THAT AFTER-  
SHOCKS OF MARCH 4 EARTHQUAKE NUMBERED ABOUT 80  
THE FIRST DAY, 60 THE SECOND DAY, AND 20  
THE THIRE. ALL WERE UNDER MAG 4.5 AND  
DIMINISHED PROGRESIVELY IN INTENSITY.

3. WE ARE, OF COURSE, SEEKING VIEWS OF ROMANIAN  
AND FOREIGN (FUCHS OF KARLSRUHE AND BOLT OF BERKELEY)  
EXPERTS ON SCENE. QUITE UNDERSTANDABLY, HOWEVER, NONE  
OF THESE EXPERTS WAS AVAILABLE YESTERDAY, AND WE CANNOT  
BE CERTAIN WE WILL HAVE REGULAR ACCESS TO THEM. IN  
ANY EVENT, WE FEEL IT ESSENTIAL TO HAVE AS MUCH INFORMATION  
AS POSSIBLE.

4. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT WE DO NOT WISH THIS  
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INFORMATION FOR PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING DEBATE WITH ROMANIAN  
AUTHORITIES. OUR CONCERN IS, RATHER, TO HAVE BEST AVAIL-  
ABLE INFORMATION TO ASSESS RISK TO EMBASSY PERSONNEL  
AND THEIR ACCOMPANYING FAMILY MEMBERS. FINALLY, WE  
WOULD NOT WISH THIS REQUEST TO BE INTERPRETED  
AS REFLECTIVE OF AN ALARMIST ATMOSPHERE HERE. THERE  
IS NONE. BUT THERE IS A STRONG FEELING THAT GIVEN THE  
CONFLICTING INFORMATION USGS HAS OFFERED TO DATE ON THIS  
SUBJECT WE ARE NOT OUT OF ORDER IN ASKING THAT FURTHER  
ANALYSIS BE MADE OF DATA PRESENTLY AVAILABLE OR OBTAIN-  
ABLE.  
BARNES

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EMERGENCY EVACUATION, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, NATURAL DISASTERS, EARTHQUAKES  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009